



Ohio Valley Employment Resource

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Proudly serving Monroe, Morgan, Noble & Washington Counties, since 2000

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Policy Letter No. 15-03 (Youth Program Eligibility)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to communicate guidance and parameters when determining eligibility requirements of individuals for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)-funded youth employment and training programs.

It will be the policy of the Workforce Development Board to follow the most recent State policy 15-03 (Youth Program Eligibility) with the following additions highlighted in yellow:

II. Effective Date with WDB and COG motion #s

July 1, 2015; COG motion 5-15 on 10/5/15; WDB motion 2-15 on 9/28/15

III. Background

IV. Definitions

V. Requirements

In-School Youth Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for in-school youth, who at the time of enrollment, is:

- a. Attending school;
- b. Not younger than 14 or (unless an individual with a disability who is attending school under state law) older than age 21;
- c. Is a low-income individual; and
- d. Has one or more of the following barriers:
 - Basic skills deficient;
 - An English language learner;
 - An offender;
 - A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))),

a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725 (2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, or in an out-of-home placement;

- Pregnant or parenting;
- An individual with a disability; or
- An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an education program or to secure or hold employment as defined by the local area. Our local area has identified additional assistance as: An individual who lacks significant work experience; or is behind at least one grade level; or receives or is a member of a family that receives or is at risk of receiving public assistance (TANF/OWF/PRC/Food Stamps/ Medicaid); or a child living in out-of-home placement; or a youth that has a disability to include emotional dependency, behavioral disorder, psychological or physical, including those medicated; or a individual who requires additional financial assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

This local barrier is limited to 5% of the population and the area has decided that ANY youth enrolled into WIOA must be screened by the youth standing committee and accepted PRIOR to enrollment using this barrier. Documentation of this screening must be signed by the Area WDB Chair and maintained in the participant's file.

Out-of-School Youth Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for out-of school youth, who at the time of enrollment, is:

- a. Not attending any school;
- b. Not younger than 16 or older than age 24; and
- c. Has one or more of the following barriers:
 - A school dropout;
 - A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter;
 - A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low income individual and is basic skills deficient or an English language learner;
 - An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system;
 - A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725 (2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system,

- a child eligible for assistance under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, or in an out-of-home placement;
- An individual who is pregnant or parenting;
 - A youth who is an individual with a disability; or
 - A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment as defined by the local area. Our local area has identified additional assistance as: An individual who lacks significant work experience; or is behind at least one grade level; or receives or is a member of a family that receives or is at risk of receiving public assistance (TANF/OWF/PRC/Food Stamps/Medicaid); or a child living in out-of-home placement; or a youth that has a disability to include emotional dependency, behavioral disorder, psychological or physical, including those medicated; or a individual who requires additional financial assistance to complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment.

5% Exception of Youth Eligibility – 1st 5% Both in and out of school

Up to five (5) percent of **in-school and out-of-school** youth participants served by youth programs in a local area may be individuals who would be covered individuals except that the persons **are not low-income**. For both 5% barriers, the area has decided that ANY youth enrolled into WIOA must be screened by the youth standing committee and accepted PRIOR to enrollment using this exception. Documentation of this screening must be signed by the Area WDB Chair and maintained in the participant's file.

5% Limitation of In-School Youth Eligibility – 2nd 5% In school only

Not more than five (5) percent of **in-school** youth may be eligible based upon being an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment. For both 5% barriers, the area has decided that ANY youth enrolled into WIOA must be screened by the youth standing committee and accepted PRIOR to enrollment using this exception. Documentation of this screening must be signed by the Area WDB Chair and maintained in the participant's file.

VI. Technical Assistance

At the county level, it is the county's discretion to contact the state directly or to start with the Area Executive Director. However, regardless of choice, the Area Executive Director must be consulted, whether directly or by cc: on email, so that the WDB is informed and engaged in local implementation.